

Title: Regarding spreading of Cholera in the Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. VETRISSELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): Sir, I would like to raise the matter of spreading of cholera in the Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu which have resulted in the loss of more than 20 lives and have left around 500 people bed-ridden including women and children. The villagers who fell in the epicentre of the outbreak are still in the grip of panic and fear. They received the contaminated water through the Nadpatti comprehensive supply scheme and Irumathur supply scheme.

The trouble started because the seepage water from the Ulsoor lake at Bangalore got mixed with the river Thenpennai and Cauvery from where water is supplied to the water tanks in the villages. No steps have been taken to avert this at the starting point itself. As a consequence of this, the people are subjected to drink the polluted water and there were many casualties, including loss of lives.

Sir, the main grievance is of non-availability of potable drinking water. The villagers developed a psychological aversion for the water source. The officials blamed the outbreak of this epidemic on Karnataka as they traced the source of contaminated water to that State. The alarming pollution density in the river course has caused this outbreak.

Sir, therefore, I urge upon the Government to increase the frequency of chlorination of overhead tanks in the district immediately.

The Hogenakkal comprehensive water scheme is waiting for the World Bank aid which is the only remedy to the villagers in that area. I request you to take steps on priority basis for the immediate implementation of the Hogenakkal water scheme; lest there should be repetition of the said epidemic, which the people cannot afford to bear.